
Offer versus Serve in Adult Day Care Centers in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

“Offer versus serve” (OVS) is an optional provision for adult participants to choose what they will eat while allowing the meal to remain eligible for reimbursement. All required meal items must be offered (made available) to each eligible adult, but the participant may decline one or two food items. OVS is an option for breakfast, lunch and supper but not for supplement (snack).

Meal	Center Must Offer	Adult May Decline
Breakfast	1 serving milk 2 servings grains/breads 1 serving vegetable/fruit	1 serving
Lunch	1 serving milk 2 servings grains/breads 2 servings vegetable/fruit 1 serving meat/meat alternate	2 servings
Supper	1 serving milk 2 servings grains/breads 2 servings vegetable/fruit 1 serving meat/meat alternate	2 servings
(Supplement) Snack	Center must serve 2 of the 4 components. OVS does not apply.	None

Offer versus serve is optional and may be implemented at the discretion of the adult day care center. Sponsors may, however, continue to serve all required meal components. OVS should not be implemented with participants who are unable to select their own food or for centers that use a pre-plated meal delivery system.

Only meals meeting the complete meal pattern or the OVS requirements are eligible to be claimed for reimbursement. All personnel involved with the service of meals must be trained to recognize the components of the required meal pattern. If OVS is implemented, additional training in recognizing a reimbursable meal must be provided. Meal counts must be recorded at mealtime and **only** those meals eligible for reimbursement are to be counted.